



The Chemical Company

Statement Concerning Michigan House Bill 4561

Emailed to Chairman Crawford on September 20, 2011

BASF – The Chemical Company, at <http://www.basf.com/group/corporate/us/en/>, is a company with a strong presence in Michigan. We have facilities in Wyandotte, Livonia, Southfield, Mattawan, Lincoln Park, and Wixom. All total, BASF employs about 1,300 people in the state. We recommend that Michigan maintain a three-year cycle for the state's building codes.

At BASF, we take sustainability very seriously. For us, sustainability means combining economic growth with sensible steps like energy efficiency. Here in Michigan and elsewhere in the U.S. and around the world, we make products that go into a home's construction that increase that structure's energy efficiency and thereby save money for homeowners. These products include insulations, concrete mixes, coatings, and window sealants.

Through our membership in organizations such as the American Chemistry Council and state-based groups like the Michigan Chemistry Council, BASF routinely advocates for adoption of updated building codes, which reflect the latest energy efficiency technologies. The codes, such as the International Energy Conservation Code or IECC, are put together by a cross-section of stakeholders, debated, and then adopted by the recommending bodies. The codes are then presented to states for consideration. States may choose to modify or even reject specific elements of the code depending on their particular needs, keeping in mind, of course, that the purpose of the code is to ensure a safe, reliable and energy efficient structure.

Energy efficiency is the most important single future source of energy to supply our growing energy needs and safeguard Americans from higher energy bills. Just through energy efficiency and with technologies that already exist, it is possible to curb our predicted increasing global energy demand significantly by the year 2030. The U.S. Department of Energy has said, for example, that by 2030, contemporary energy codes could save about 330 Trillion BTU, almost 2% of total current residential energy consumption.

http://www.energycodes.gov/why_codes/.

Through energy efficiency, we can get more from less. The U.S. Department of Energy projects that the 2012 IECC will achieve a 30 percent increase in energy savings compared to its 2006 predecessor.

https://www.energycodes.gov/status/2012_Final.stm. That translates into real financial savings for Michiganders, and it means that people will be able to stay in their homes longer because their ability to meet their monthly expenses is enhanced. And, the homes themselves will last longer and require less maintenance because of the use of modern materials. This, plus the fact that many of the energy efficiency products are made or developed right here in Michigan by BASF and others means that continued three-year updates of the building code are a win-win for Michigan.

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